

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the Abstract beginning on page 9 with the following amended Abstract:

Co-extruding a strand of edible material to create a substantially uniform layer of an edible casing forming material around an inner strand of food material; coagulating ~~said~~the casing forming material to form a casing around ~~said~~the strand of food material; linking ~~said~~the strand into individual portions; and treating ~~said~~the casing forming material with a flowable anti-dehydration agent ("ada") before or after ~~said~~the linking.